To our knowledge, this is the only bird species restricted to the Rio Guaporé drainage of Bolivia/Brazil. Short's (1982) inclusion of Dpto. Beni, Bolivia, in the range of *P. fuscus* is based on three previously unpublished specimens, one male and two females collected by Juan Cuello on the Bolivian side of the Rio Guaporé "frente a Costa Margues" on 30 August and 4 September 1964 (American Museum of Natural History nos. 791898-900; A. Capparella, *in litt.*).

Picumnus fuscus is in no way threatened by the deforestation occurring in other parts of southwestern Brazil, as the 500 km section of the Rio Guaporé from Pimenteiras to Guayaramerin is largely uninhabited and almost continuously forested along the river (pers. obs.). Furthermore, a large portion of the species' range apparently lies within the Reserva Biológica do Guaporé, Rondonia, Brazil.

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Natural history notes and records for seven poorly known bird species from Amazonian Peru

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The goal of this article is to report new or additional data on the behaviour, natural history and distribution of seven poorly known bird species from Amazonian Peru. The majority of these records are from or near the Pakitza guard station in the Reserved Zone on the eastery boundary of Manu National Park, Department of Madre de Dios (11°57′S, 71°15′W), and near the Pithecia guard station (Cocha Shinguito) on the Samiria River of the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve, Department of Loreto (5°S, 74°30′W). All specimens collected are housed in the Collection of Birds, Natural History Museum of San Marcos University, Lima, Peru.

SOUTHERN SCREAMER *Chauna torquata*

On 7 September 1989 as we ascended the Madre de Dios River in canoes, an individual was observed on a sandy beach 12 km NW of the gold-mining settlement of San Francisco (c. 52 km NW Puerto Maldonado). Over 25 observers in the two canoes noted the reddish legs, white cheeks and throat, and overall greyish body that distinguished it from the larger,

darker and common screamer species of the area, the Horned Screamer *Anhima cornuta*. We observed the individual for more than 5 minutes as it repeatedly flew up the beach several metres at a time in front of the canoes.

Only one additional record of Southern Screamer is known for Peru, also in the Department of Madre de Dios but from SE of Puerto Maldonado on the Tambopata River (Parker 1982). The nearest known breeding populations are in the northwestern part of the Department of Beni, Bolivia (Gyldenstolpe 1945, Pearson 1975).

BLACK-BELLIED CUCKOO *Piaya melanogaster*

This species was found regularly but in small numbers in tall flood-plain forest 4 km south of Pakitza. Normally we saw it in large mixed-species flocks foraging in the lower portion of the canopy. This cuckoo is rarely found at the Cocha Cashu Biological Station 10 km upriver from Pakitza (S. K. Robinson, pers. comm.) even though virtually identical flood-plain forest occurs there. Its ecological relationship with the more common and widespread congener, the Squirrel Cuckoo *P. cayana*, is unclear. The latter species occurs in a broad range of habitat types from primary forest to secondary forest whereas the Black-bellied Cuckoo is more limited to primary forest. North of Pakitza at Yarinacocha, Department of Ucayali (O'Neill & Pearson 1974), and south of Pakitza at Tambopata Reserved Zone, Department of Madre de Dios (T. A. Parker, pers. comm.), the two species are regularly seen in the same habitat of tall primary forest.

AMAZONIAN UMBRELLABIRD *Cephalopterus ornatus*

On 7 September 1989, we observed a single male fly across the Madre de Dios River 5 km NW of the settlement called San Francisco (45 km NW Puerto Maldonado). Its undulating, woodpecker-like flight together with an erect crest facilitated the identification. It then landed in *Cecropia* trees on the bank of the river where it fed on fruits a few minutes before flying out of sight and away from the river. This species has been spottily recorded from lower stretches of the Madre de Dios River but is evidently much rarer in the upper parts of this drainage (Snow 1982). No records are known from the extensively studied lowland areas of Manu (Terborgh *et al.* 1984).

PERUVIAN RECURVEBILL *Simoxenops ucayalae*

This species is endemic to southeastern Peru and is most frequently found in bamboo stands (*Guadua* spp.) and occasionally canebrakes (*Gynerium* spp.) (Parker 1982, Parker & Remsen 1987). Very few specimens have been collected and none from the Manu area. In February 1990 we collected a male 0.6 km E of Pakitza. It weighed 50 g; had moulting feathers on the head, belly and tail; the cranium was 75% ossified; gonads were 4 × 2 mm; and the stomach contained palpi of spiders, mandibles of larval beetles and cerci of earwigs (Dermaptera).

LONG-CRESTED PYGMY-TYRANT *Lophotriccus eulophotes*

Only a few records of this endemic species are known from southeastern Peru and adjacent northwestern Bolivia (Parker & Remsen 1987). We found it to be regular but uncommon in the vicinity of Pakitza. Virtually all of our observations of this species were in or near bamboo

stands. About 40% of the individuals were loosely associated with mixed-species flocks. The rest of the observations were of solitary birds giving their high pitched vocalizations (Parker & Remsen 1987) from a perch in relatively dense vegetation 3 to 6 m above the ground.

We collected two specimens at Pakitza. The first was from a bamboo stand in September 1988. It was an unsexed juvenile weighing 5.5 g; no moulting feathers; 25% ossification of the cranium; and stomach contents were 100% insect remains. The second was a female from alluvial terrace forest with small stands of bamboo in September 1989. It weighed 6.0 g; moulting feathers on the body and head; 50% ossification of the cranium; ovary 7 × 3 mm; and stomach contents were beetle remains.

WING-BANDED WREN *Microcerculus bambla*

A female weighing 17 g (gonads 4 × 2·5 mm) was mist-netted at Pakitza in September 1989. Moulting was evident on the breast, and the stomach contained 100% insect remains including many beetle parts. The habitat in which this specimen was collected was primary forest on flood-plain soil. The congener *M. marginatus* (Nightingale Wren) was common in this habitat, but no other individuals of the Wing-banded Wren were observed or captured. Only one previous specimen has been collected in Peru, also near Pakitza (AMNH 824080). Terborgh *et al.* (1984) report several observations of Wing-banded Wrens from Cocha Cashu, but it is also very rare there. Evidently these two species tend to separate generally by altitude in areas of sympatry in eastern Ecuador and eastern Peru with the Wing-banded Wren more common at higher altitudes (Ridgely & Tudor 1989).

ECUADORIAN CACIQUE *Cacicus sclateri*

We found this species to be common and regular along the middle and upper stretches of the Samiria River in the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve. A specimen was collected from this site earlier (Ridgely & Tudor 1989). This species is known from only one other locality in Peru (Huampami, Department of Amazonas); a specimen record from the Rio Curaray, Department of Loreto, is of dubious origin (T. Parker, pers. comm.).

We recorded its ringing song, *peé-chur, peé-chur, peé-chur, chur-chur-chur,* which was heard throughout the day in the middle and upper strata of the flood-plain forest. One pair came to the large red flowers of a leguminous tree (flower heights 4–10 m) on the edge of the river every day between 13.00 and 14.30 for two weeks (20 May–2 June 1990). They actively probed the corollas of the flowers for nectar or insects. Both individuals would call back and forth to each other. At this close range the pale blue eye and the pale bluish bill tipped with yellowish were obvious. Direct comparisons of the similar congener *C. solitarius* (Solitary Cacique) were possible, as the two species frequently called from the same area. Although the Solitary Cacique tended to feed lower in the vegetation near the river, both species occasionally occurred together in the mid strata of open flood-plain forest. Only the Ecuadorian Cacique, however, regularly associated with other species such as Troupial *Icterus icterus*, Paradise Tanager *Tangara chilensis,* and Masked Crimson Tanager *Ramphocelus nigrogularis*. The larger body size, all pale-green bill, dark eye and the

louder more slurred song of the Solitary Cacique served to readily distinguish it from the Ecuadorian Cacique.

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Female and first-year male plumages of paradise whydahs *Vidua interjecta*

by Robert B. Payne

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The brood parasitic West African Broad-tailed Paradise Whydah *Vidua interjecta* occurs across Upper and Lower Guinea through northeastern Zaire. Its distribution is associated with its foster species, the Red-winged Pytilia *Pytilia phoenicoptera* (Nicolai 1964, Hall & Moreau 1970, Payne 1985). Although *V. interjecta* is known from museum skins and field observations of males in breeding plumage, the female and nonbreeding male have not been described. The plumage of females and nonbreeding males may be as significant as that of the males in identification and in evaluating species relationships among the whydahs (Payne 1971).